Group of the Planning Commission. The demand figures have been given in the Eighth Five-Year Plan document. How is he monitoring the production and the demand?

Secondly, I asked for the cost of production. He has given the notified price. I did not ask for the notified price.

Parts (d), (e) and (f) have been clubbed together to answer my questions. The basic question has not been replied to. How can I perceive a supplementary?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, this is the answer available with me today. But I would request the hon. Member and the Chair that this question may be deferred. Apart from the question he has asked, let him also give me the supplementary questions that he proposes to ask. I will send the answer with full facts and will also share it with the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, this is not the answer. How can I put my supplementaries. When the Minister is agreeing to give the basic...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, I have also to ask supplementary questions on this.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, this is not for the answer alone. This is meant for the poor TB patients. It is not for the rich men. Decontrol has made the poor to pay a heavy amount. That is the main problem. We want the Government to make some kind of arrangement or to control the prices in the interest of the poor people.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir if I have to tell you on this question, with the import figures you can calculate the actual demand for it. The import for it is around 250 tonnes. The fact of the matter is that the Annual Report of the Ministry says there are six lakh TB cases. And if you see the daily requirement of every patient, you will arrive at the figure. That shows he is evading the answer. So, I want the basic question to be answered before I proceed with my supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we postpone the question to 15th of December?

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: O.K., Sir.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will it be Question No. 1, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 85. Shri Mool Chand Meena. Hon Member—absent.

Shri Sanjay Dalmia.

Special Scheme to check the Rate of Drop-outs

*85. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any special scheme to check the alarming drop-out rate of school going children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A major initiative has been launched by the Central Government in the form of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education with a view to give a boost to Universalisation of Primary Education, by increasing enrolment, retention and

*†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanjay Dalmia.

attendance and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in primary classes.

(b) Commencing from August 15, 1995, the programme will cover in a phased manner all Government, local body and private aided primary schools in all the States and Union Territories.

The financial outlay for the programme is Rs. 611.79 crores for 1995-96.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Sir, I would like to know (a) the percentage of student drop-outs in the last two years before this scheme was announced; and (b) the percentage of students who have been attending these Primary schools during the last two years.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The percentage of drop-outs....

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: अपने कुलीग की मदद ले लीजिए।

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: He has specifically asked the percentage. So, I have to scientifically give the percentage figures.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: There is no harm if you take help from your colleague.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is answering for the first time.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The total percentage of drop-outs during 1993-94 was 52.8 per cent. The figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96 are not available, because no survey has been made up till now. But after the introduction of the mid-day meal scheme, the Department is conducting a survey.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Sir, I want a clarification. The figure of drop-outs during 1993-94 was 52.8 per cent. That means the figure of the students who were attending the schools was 47.2 per cent. That means less than 50 per cent were attending during 1993-94. The figure for 1994-95 is not available. It should be more or less on the same line. Now, in the first six months of 1995-96 or since you have started this scheme, has there been any significant improvement in the attendance and in enrolment?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Yes, Sir. Enrolment started in the months of April, May and June. After the programme was launched on 15th August, 1995, information from our computerised system indicates that the rate of attendance is on the increase throughout the nook and corner of the country. Since the academic year 1995-96 ends in March, 1996 whether the drop-out rate has decreased or increased can be known only after that. But the field surveys are on. Our Members of Parliament are visiting the places where the scheme is being implemented. After the nutrition programme was launched by the hon. Prime Minister on 15th August, 1995 by the hon. Prime Minister, it is noticed that it is creating a tremendous impact.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Mr. Minister, you have earmarked Rs. 600 odd crores for the year 1995-96 for the nutrition scheme. Please tell me how many students are likely to be benefited from this scheme and the amount that is being spent per student, approximately.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The number of students to be benefited during the year is 3.38 crores. From the Government of India side, each student will get 100 grams of cereals. It is a Mid-Day Meal scheme. The State Governments and the Union Territories are also involved in this. In more than seven States and in one Union Territory, food is being served. In other States, we are giving cereals. Food is being served in Punjab and Delhi. We have started the scheme only in August this year. It will take some time. But we found that the scheme was creating a very good impact. The State Governments are coming forward to provide pulses, Kitchen equipment, etc. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Mr.

Chairman, I have put a very specific question: What is the amount spent per child? From the figure which the Minister has given, it comes to about Rs. 200/- per child per year. It is something like Rs. 15/- per child per month. It is about fifty paise per child per day... (*interruptions*)... Mr. Minister, you said that three crore odd students were going to be benefited by the scheme. The amount you allocated was Rs. 600 odd crores. It is coming to about Rs. 200/- per child for the whole year.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: This is from the Government of India side.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: This is from the Government of India only.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: But the State Governments also ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: My question is ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dalmia, please sit down. The Minister is answering you.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Mr. Chairman, many State Governments are coming forward to help the scheme. Many States are extending their support in the shape of pulses, oil, vegetables, etc., because the scheme is being implemented mainly in the blocks where the Employment Assurance Scheme RPDS (Revamped Public Distribution System) is in operation and in the low female literacy blocks to begin with.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Mr. Chairman, with fifty paise per student per day, it is impossible to feed a student. Even the animal feed will cost more than that amount.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the hon. Member is not following my answer. I have divided the question into two. There are two components in the scheme. One component is the cereal component, i.e., 100 grams of cereals being given by the Government of India. The second component comes from the State Governments. It includes pulses, fats, etc. This is a nutritional promotion scheme. There is a protein deficiency. Pulses provide sufficient proteins. The deficiency is about 6-7 grams. The deficiency varies from State to State.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this matter there should be a discussion. The elementary level education is crucial for shaping the future of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give notice. Now, the Question Hours is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh

*86. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh is not in accordance with its production capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance its production capacity.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The production and capacity utilisation of the major fertilizer units in Andhra Pradesh is furnished in statement (*see* below). The capacity utilisation of all major plants except FCI, Ramagundam, has been satisfactory.

The capacity utilisation of the Ramagundam unit of FCI has been poor year after year on account of problems arising from design deficiencies, equipment imbalances, high ash content of coal and liquidity constraints affecting procurement of inputs and in effecting timely renewals and replacements. Prolonged power cuts/power restrictions and coal availability have also affected the performance of the plant.

In April, 1995, Government has